GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2008
ASSETS CREATED UNDER NREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been done regarding usefulness of the assets created so far under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS);

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any mechanism to monitor the maintenance of assets created under the above scheme;and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in rely to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.318 for answer on 19.12.2008.

(a) & (b): In 2006-07,in the first year of implementation of NREGA,20 institutions conducted studies on NREGA.These studies covered 80 Phase I districts of 21 States. 37600 respondents were interviewed.Most of the respondents accepted that there has been overall enhancement of economic activities due to NREGA.They expressed that durable assets have been created in the villages.Drinking water has become available due to construction of water harvesting structures.There has been positive impact on soil and water conservation.95.91% of respondents accepted that there is an increase in water table in the area.93.03% of respondents felt that there has been favourable impact on agricultural productivity.

In 2007-08,a more intensive study was conducted by `Centre for Science and Environment,New Delhi`in Nuapada District of Orissa and Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh during January-March, 2008.The study focused on usefulness of assets created under NREGA.The study report pointed out that NREGA had made a positive impact on water availability and crop diversity. In Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, 78.6% respondents accepted that NREGA had led to increase of water availability.Around 55% respondents reported an increase of 371.6 acre area under crops.55.5% of the respondents reported diversification of crops over previous years.Crops like Jwar, Bajra, Kodi,Makka and Arhar have been replaced by wheat, gram and vegetables due to increased irrigation water availability.In Nuapada District of Orissa, almost similar observations had been made by the respondents.15.38% of respondents in the district accepted the fact that NREGA had led to increase of water availability.15% of respondents changed to mixed crop in the last one year.While paddy and Biri were mostly grown in the area,the respondents were able to diversify and produce crops such as groundnut, millet and vegetables.14.5% of the respondents reported an increase in the net shown area due to increased water availability as a result of works undertaken through NREGA.In sample area,NREGA works had led to an increase in areas sown by 18.25 acres.

Institute of Human Development conducted study in 6 districts of Bihar and 3 districts of Jharkhand.The study points out that the assets created under NREGA have been proved very useful.NREGA was able to provide improved irrigation facilities through construction of water conservation and water harvesting structures.

In addition,various studies points out that implementation of NREGA has had a positive impact on incomes of rural people in the country.Wage negotiation capacity of the workers has increased.NREGA has augmented employment opportunities in rural areas.It has also been proved as an instrument of re-generation of natural resources.

In 2008-09, 260 National Level Monitors have visited 330 districts covered in Phase I & Phase II of NREGA.As per the reports of the NLMs, 97% of the works were found useful for the community.The quality of works in 91% cases was good. NLM reports also point out that in 92.91% villages,Gram Sabha was convened to recommend the list of works for taking up under NREGA.A high level of awareness about NREGA was found in 75.49% cases.Social Audit has been completed in 65.41% of the villages visited by NLMs.

(c) & (d): Yes,Sir.Para 6.1.3 of Operational Guidelines of NREGA provides that the maintenance of assets created under the scheme is considered as permissible work under NREGA.The same applies to the maintenance of assets created under other programmes but belonging to the sector of works approved in Schedule I of the NREG Act.The works taken up under NREGA are monitored through online reports provided by the State Governments.Further,the Ministry of Rural Development has prescribed maintenance of

proper record at various levels to monitor the maintenance of assets created under NREGA.Work Register and Asset Register are required to be maintained by Programme Officer/ Gram Panchayat/ other implementing agencies.Work Register contains details of the work such as number and date of sanction orders, completion date,expenditure incurred, date of Social Audit, pre-mid-post-project-condition of the work etc.The Asset Register contains details of assets, its cost, creation, current status,benefits derivable and details of works which have been taken up on the asset. Whenever works are taken up, entries are required to be made not only in Work Register but also in the Asset Register.